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PATENT
CASE NO. 10022/24

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application:)
)
Perry et al.)
) Group Art Unit: 3623
)
Serial No.: 09/746,611)
) Examiner: C. Michelle Tarae
Filed: December 21, 2000)
)
For: COMPUTERIZED METHOD)
FOR EVALUATING AND)
SHAPING A BUSINESS)
PROPOSAL)

APPEAL BRIEF: REPLACEMENT SUMMARY SECTION

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is being filed in response to the Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief mailed on June 11, 2007, and includes a replacement "Summary of Claimed Subject Matter" section for the Appeal Brief filed on April 25, 2007.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER (replacement)

An understanding of the subject matter of independent claims 1, 18, and 32 can be made upon a review of the embodiments of the invention as follows.

Claims 1 and 18 claim a method of evaluating information to rank (claim 1) or calculate advantages of (claim 18) at least two different business structures between two parties. The information is gathered from at least one database. For example, a centralized database may be routinely updated with information about the businesses of the parties (P. 5, ll. 6-14; P. 16, ll. 10-22). A computer evaluates the information and provides the ranking (or calculated advantages). Claims 1 and 18 are specifically directed at evaluating information to rank at least two of the following possible business structures: alliance, acquisition, equity venture, partnership, and venture (P. 6, ll. 1-8; P. 21, ll. 16-17).

The process includes displaying questions relevant to the possible business structures (P. 11, ll. 27-29; P. 12, l. 29 to P. 13, l. 2; FIG. 9). For example, the questions may relate to the environments, revenue drivers, and risks of the businesses of the parties. The system provides a user access to the centralized database to obtain information to answer the questions (P. 11, l. 29 to P. 12, l. 2; P. 12, ll. 8-15; FIG. 7). The database has information about the parties that is pertinent to the agreement (P. 11, ll. 9-22). In addition, a user may define a query to add criteria for performing a search in the database (P. 13, l. 3). Both the answers to the questions and the query are used to search for information that will provide a basis to automatically evaluate and rank (or calculate advantages of) the business structures (P. 12, ll. 2-4).

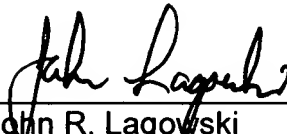
The process is iterative and includes at least one reevaluation act (P. 13, II. 12-13) such as reevaluating the business environment and risk information (FIG. 10).

Claim 32 is directed at a computer system programmed to execute the computerized process discussed above to generate an output for evaluating at least two of the following possible business structures: alliance, acquisition, equity venture, partnership, and venture (P. 11, I. 21 to P. 12, I. 7; P. 14, II. 19-22).

Conclusion

It is believed that the replacement Summary section complies with the requirements of 37 CFR 41.37. Entry of the replacement Summary section is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Lagowski", is written over a horizontal line.

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